

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



daily devotions
FOR DISTANCED DISCIPLES

Thursday, June 25– Tuesday, June 30

Dear Distanced Disciples of St. Mark's,

This will be our last week of 4D devotions from St. Mark's. In July, the North Carolina Synod will be providing "Moments with Matthew" which will give us an opportunity for daily study and devotion of God's word with others across the state this summer. Details on how to access this resource will be made available in MiniMarks next week.

I encourage you to continue spending time each day as you grow in faith and understanding of God's word and love for you!

Deacon Katie



Scripture

Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18

Thursday, June 25

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness. For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant: I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.”

Happy are the people who know the festal shout! They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence. They rejoice daily in your name; they are jubilant in your righteousness.

For you are the glory of their strength, and by your favor our might is exalted.

Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord; our king to the Holy One of Israel.



Reflect

“I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.”

Reflect on your lineage of faith, either through your family or those who shared the love of Christ with you. Connected with those throughout all generations in our baptism, we join together today with a festal shout of thanksgiving to God for steadfast love and faithfulness.



Prayer

O God, your love never changes. We praise you for the company of saints who have shared the Good News with us throughout all generations. Help us to share your love with others, that all might know of your redeeming love for all the world. Amen.



Internet Resources

Faith and Fellowship—tonight on Zoom at 6pm. Join us for a time of conversation and prayer.

[Click here](#) at 6pm to join the Zoom meeting.

Friday, June 26



Scripture

Jeremiah 28: 5-9

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."



Reflect

How can you prophecy peace? What peace of God can you share with a world still full of war, famine, and pestilence?



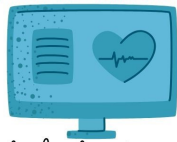
Prayer

Holy God, you have spoken through prophets since ancient times to bring your peace to all nations. Give us voices to be heralds of your love, that we might share your goodness with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Internet Resources

Every Friday at 10:00am, St. Mark's kids gather on Zoom to sing, talk, and pray! [Click here](#) to join the Zoom meeting.



Saturday, June 27



Scripture

Romans 6: 12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Reflect

As someone who is not under the law but under grace, why should we follow God's word and commandments for us?

How are you God's instrument of righteousness?



Prayer

Loving God, you sent your Son to take away the sins of the world. Help us to live in the amazing grace that you have shown us, that we might be instruments of your righteousness, and share that grace with all whom we meet. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Scripture

Matthew 10: 40-42

Sunday, June 28

Jesus said to the twelve: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”



Reflect

Think of a time that you were welcomed into a new place or experience.

How can you welcome others into your life in Christ? How can you show hospitality to strangers?



Prayer

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Internet Resources

Worship with St. Mark’s on Facebook today at 10:00am. [Click here](#) to access the streamed worship service, beginning with prelude music around 9:50.

Adult Faith Formation takes place at 9:00am on Zoom. [Click here](#) to join our class based on the Lectionary texts for the week!

Monday, June 29

Peter and Paul



Scripture

John 21: 15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”



Reflect

Today we celebrate two great figures of the early church, Peter and Paul, who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context.



Prayer

Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Internet Resources

Faith and Fellowship—this morning at 10:00am on Zoom. Join us for a time of conversation and prayer. [Click here](#) to join the meeting.



Tuesday, June 30



Scripture

Psalm 119: 161-168

Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.

I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil. I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law. Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous ordinances. Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I fulfill your commandments.

My soul keeps your decrees, I love them exceedingly.

I keep your precepts and decrees, for my ways are before you.



Reflect

“But my heart stands in awe of your words.”

Re-read today's psalm. How can we read scripture and be in awe of what God is saying to us?



Prayer

Holy God, your word is everlasting. Help us to daily meditate on your Holy scripture, that our eyes might be opened to your goodness, and that we might grow in faith and love of you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.